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April 15, 2009

Dear Mayors and County Commissioners:

Please see the attached item on this email from the House Transportation Committee.

As you are aware, the Committee completes a bill every six years which includes funding for transportation programs, including highway programs.

I know many of you want to have input into this bill, and the attached form is how you can do that. I anticipate making requests for several High Priority Projects (HPP's) and these forms are necessary for me to be able to do that.

Each question must be answered. Partially-completed forms will make it impossible for me to include the request, so please call my transportation legislative assistant, Ethan Vice, if you have questions (202-225-4876). To submit your request, attach the saved PDF in an e-mail and send to [hpp.aderholt@mail.house.gov](mailto:hpp.aderholt@mail.house.gov)

The form must be returned as an electronic file, attached to an email. Please email back the completed form as soon as possible, and no later than the evening of April 29, Wednesday. When you complete the form, please name it with the county or city and project name, such as "Example County\_Highway 75 four-laning."

The following web links might be helpful for determining project eligibility:

- For surface transportation (STP): Title 23 - Section 133 of U.S. Code:  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/title23.pdf](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/title23.pdf)
- For transit (definition of a transit capital project): Title 49 - Section 5302 of U.S. Code:  
[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse\\_usc&docid=Cite:+49USC5302](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+49USC5302)
- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/projects.cfm>
- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets.htm>

You may send in local and state letters of support as late as the following Monday if they are not ready by the 29th.

You should ask the Alabama Department of Transportation for a letter of support, but also the Committee would like to see letters of support from County Commissions, Mayors, City Councils, Chambers of Commerce, non-profit organizations, etc. Please see the form to read what details should be included in those letters. Please email those letters, or fax them to 202 225-5587. The postal mail system is too slow for us to receive support letters in that way since incoming mail is still scanned and unfortunately delayed.

The "Project Description" is the phrase that ends up included in the report section of the bill to list the projects. This language should be as specific as necessary but not overly detailed. Please see the attached list of HPP's from the current six year bill, as examples.

Finally, I realize that county road resurfacing is a frustration for almost everyone. This issue is best addressed, however, through your state of Alabama House Representatives and State of Alabama Senators.

I will read and consider all requests, but the Chairman's instructions require that the request be for the full 80% federal share of the total cost. Or, if a local area wants to add their own funds to the Federal funds to reach the 80% funding level of the total cost, that also will be acceptable to the Chairman. Please check with ALDOT to see if the state is willing to come up with the traditional 20% or whether the state expects the City/County to do so. Members will not be allowed to apply small amounts (5%, 10% etc.) to projects. The Chairman is concerned that many projects in the two six-year bills prior to SAFETEA-LU never got started, and therefore those federal funds are idle and cannot currently be used for other projects.

Therefore, the ideal request might be projects (roads or bridges) which could be completed with approximately 2 to 10 million dollars of federal funds, as HPP's in this bill. I will not rule out bigger requests at this point because I want to hear what is of most concern to you. Since it is not clear yet how many projects the Committee will consider, however, brand new projects requiring many tens of millions of dollars might be difficult for the Chairman to include. Some requests might benefit from being supported by more than one Congressional District, and/or more than one county.

I look forward to working with you to help improve transportation in north Alabama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Aderholt". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress

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## HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS---Continued

No.	State	Project Description	Amount
130	SC	Build extension of North Rhett Boulevard from Liberty Hall Road to US 176 in SC .	\$5,600,000
131	NH	Construct and upgrade intersection of Route 3 and Franklin Industrial Drive in Franklin .	\$800,000
132	GA	Construct Waycross East Bypass from US 84 in Pierce County, Georgia to US 1 in Ware County, Georgia .	\$2,560,000
133	NY	Design and Construction of a transportation enhancement project at the Erie Canal Aqueduct in downtown Rochester	\$1,200,000
134	CA	Improvement of intersection at Balboa Blvd. and San Fernando Rd .	\$400,000
135	TN	Improve Vehicle Efficiencies at highway At-Grade Railroad Crossing in Athens, TN .	\$79,200
136	WI	Develop pedestrian and bike connections that link to Hank Aaron State Trail in Milwaukee	\$1,680,000
137	AK	Keystone Drive Road Improvements .	\$1,000,000
138	GA	Pedestrian and streetscape improvements, Ellaville	\$250,000
139	NY	Construct and improve pedestrian access on Main Street in Hempstead	\$1,600,000
140	IL	Preconstruction activities IL 336 from Macomb to Peoria .	\$1,600,000
141	OH	Purchase of right-of-ways for construction of pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the City of Aurora, OH	\$400,000
142	IL	Replacement of bridge on Harlem Avenue, The Village of River Forest	\$800,000
143	CA	State Route 86S and Ave 66 highway safety grade separation .	\$3,600,000
144	IL	Construct Bissel Street Roadway Connector, Tri-City Regional Port District .	\$800,000
145	CT	Improve Route 1 between East Avenue and Belden Avenue, Norwalk, CT	\$1,600,000
146	IA	Central IA Trail Loop, bicycle and pedestrian, Ankeny to Woodward section .	\$800,000
147	MI	Chippewa County, Upgrade Tilson Road between M-28 South to intersection of M-48 at Rudyard .	\$800,000
148	WA	Coal Creek Parkway Bridge Replacement, Newcastle WA .	\$800,000
149	PA	Complete gaps in the Pittsburgh Riverfront Trail Network including the Hot Metal Bridge	\$600,000
150	TX	Construct passing lanes on Texas State Highway 16 in Atascosa County	\$797,000
151	TX	Construct street and drainage improvements to road system in Encinal	\$250,000
152	MN	Environmental assessment and right of way acquisition at US 52 and CSAH 24 Interchange, Cannon Falls, Goodhue Cnty, MN .	\$1,600,000
153	NY	Planning and design, construction, and related relocations for approaches to Peace Bridge Development Project, Buffalo	\$8,000,000